

Communications Interoperability Steering Committee

Wednesday, March 16, 2004

Milwaukee, WI

Meeting Summary

Host: OJA

Location: The Milwaukee Hilton Hotel – 509 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Meeting called to order by Mr. Paul France (OJA) at 9:30 AM

Members and Guests present and Agenda are attached.

RE: Agenda item III. “Review of Minutes” of previous meetings. No ‘minutes’ were immediately available. This being an advisory committee, it is not bound by formal rules governing other bodies. The chairman bears the responsibility of recording and disseminating information to support the Steering Committee and its work. Meeting summaries will be posted on the OJA website and provided directly to steering committee members.

RE: Agenda item V. “Updates”: Mr. France provided information relative to the progress of this and other activities of the Homeland Security Grant program.

Upon the chair’s return from an earlier engagement it became abundantly clear that steering committee members shared great concern over the issue of standards – such as the APCO – 25 suite of standards for public safety wireless communications. It was noted that OJA has maintained its insistence that communications equipment purchased with Homeland Security Grant funds before the completion of the Communications Interoperability study must be P-25 compliant. Agencies purchasing equipment without Homeland Security grant funds are not bound by that requirement, which begs the question; ‘how do we intend to govern the conduct of agencies across 72 counties and 10 disciplines?’.

RE: Agenda item VI. “Public Safety Mobile Radio Information Guide” Federal Engineering.

Mr. Peter LaVenia of Federal Engineering presented a draft of the PSMR Information Guide. This product is a contract deliverable. The purpose is to provide those making decisions about public safety communications issues a valuable source of information. It includes websites, white papers and other sources which reflect the best thinking of like-minded professionals dealing with these complex issues. The sources are vendor neutral, unless otherwise specified.

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Steering Committee members and guests were invited to review the draft and get back to Peter with any recommendations. We intend to close this matter at our next meeting. Following such action the guide will be posted on either the Federal Engineering or the OJA website.

RE: Agenda Item VII 'Pilot Projects'. Several requests for funding or descriptions of efforts to improve public safety communications have been received at OJA. The Steering Committee may serve a role in the review of these proposals if OJA decides to fund pilot projects or proof of concept demonstration sites. At the present time, OJA is logging the requests in pending future action.

RE: Agenda Item VIII. 'Next meeting agenda'. Owing to the great level of interest in P-25 and the entire 'standards' issue, the Steering Committee agreed a presentation by Federal Engineering would be of value to its deliberations. OJA will arrange for such a presentation.

Future meeting dates:

April 7<sup>th</sup> – McFarland, WI

April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Potential 'extra' meeting date

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Wausau

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Eau Claire

Other meetings to be called at the discretion of the chair.

Adjournment: 3:00 P.M